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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/089,731	04/04/2002	Daniel Demit	0513-1007	2711
466	7590	10/06/2003		
YOUNG & THOMPSON 745 SOUTH 23RD STREET 2ND FLOOR ARLINGTON, VA 22202			EXAMINER SHANLEY, DANIEL G	
			ART UNIT 3723	PAPER NUMBER
			DATE MAILED: 10/06/2003	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/089,731

Applicant(s)

DEMIT ET AL.

Examiner

Daniel G. Shanley

Art Unit

3723

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 April 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 7-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Specifically, claim 7, line 4, states, "comprising means (18) according to claim 1." The scope of the claim is not fully understood by the examiner. Is claim 7 and independent claim purporting to incorporate all of the limitations from claim 1 by referencing claim one, or is claim 7 a claim depending from claim 1? Please clarify. **For the purposes of this action, the claim will be treated as if it is a dependent claim.**

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-2, and 4-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by EP-A-O 226 212 (Bayerische Motoren Werke AG).

The document in Figure 6A discloses a position holding means identical to that of claim 1 having a means for holding in position two parts that are to be brought towards

each other in at least two coplanar end directions of approach (D1, D2) forming an approach angle therebetween, where the position holding means comprises at least one male 25 and one female vee, each provided with means for fastening it to one of the parts in such a way that each vee is substantially centred on a direction parallel to the bisector of the approach angle, and the female vee has an inlet portion with an aperture angle no smaller than the approach angle, as well a means 23 for urging the male vee against the female vee along the bisector.

Moreover, it is reasonably interpreted if the approach angle is equal to zero (when both directions are coaxial and become one), all of the aperture angles are greater than the approach angle, consequently anticipating the claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The prior art did not ostensibly suggest, in whole nor in part, an work holding apparatus with the combination of affirmatively recited claim limitations.

Claims 3, 6, and 7-10, as well as understood, are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Reference EP-A-O 226 212 (Bayerische Motoren Werke AG) does not disclose a means for holding the side tools and the transverse tool together, in which the transverse tool has two V's. Moreover, the reference does not disclose the limitations of the claim 3 nor a jaw being movably mounted on a peg as required by claim 6.

Conclusion

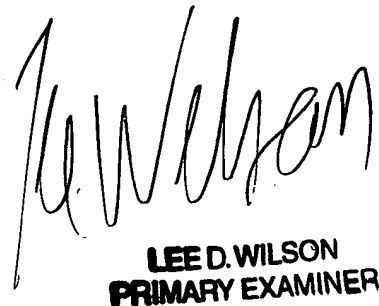
The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Malatier, Cappa, Alborante 496', Alborante 471', and Bidaud 444' disclose assembly stations for motor vehicles.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel G. Shanley whose telephone number is 703-305-0306. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 0830-1700.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Hail can be reached on 703-308-2687. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9302 for regular communications and 703-872-9303 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1148.

DGS
September 28, 2003



LEE D. WILSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER